

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Alf BIRKENSTOCK, et al.
Filed : Concurrently herewith
For : METHOD FOR CUTTING
Serial No. : Concurrently herewith

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 15, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

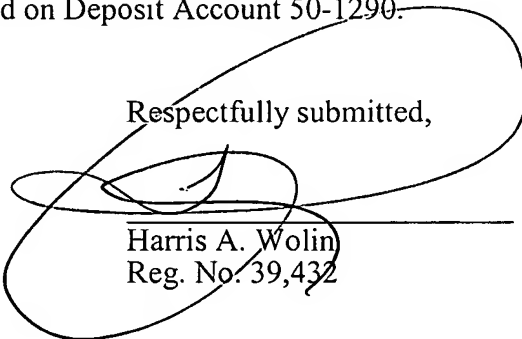
The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended

that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Harris A. Wolin
Reg. No. 39,432

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-2585
(212) 940-8800
Docket No: GRAT 20.690

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

Application No.	:
Filing Date	:
First Named Inventor:	A. BIRKENSTOCK
Group Art Unit	:
Examiner Name	:
Attorney Docket No.	GRAT 20.690

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5,305,626		Tiekink	04-26-1994	

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		1 038 623 A2	EP	Pleper, Ulrich	09-27-2000	
		0 706 843 A1	EP	Kleiner, Matthias, et al.	04-17-1996	
		196 37 175 C2	DE	Aisin Seiki K.K. et al.	12-06-2001	
		24 21 425 C2	DE	Gebr. Happich GmbH	03-25-1982	
		36 30 601 C2	DE	Julius & August Erbslöh GmbH	03-30-1999	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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